UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/604
21 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Security Council the attached communication, dated 17 July 1995, which he has received from the Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

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Annex

Letter dated 17 July 1995 from the Acting Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to section III of the IAEA's seventh semi-annual report (document S/1995/287 dated 11 April 1995) on the implementation of the IAEA's plan for ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with the relevant obligations specified in UNSC resolutions 687 (1991) and 715 (1991).

This section addressed the implications of two, single page, documents which were represented as official Iraqi correspondence, generated in April/May 1994, suggesting the reconstitution of a nuclear weapons programme.

As indicated in paragraph 20 of that report, the IAEA undertook to keep the Security Council informed of the outcome of the IAEA's investigation into this matter.

Accordingly, I am requesting you kindly to transmit the enclosed report on the IAEA's investigation into this matter to the Security Council.

The Director General and his staff are available for any consultations you or the Council may wish to have.

(Signed) QIAN Jihui
Acting Director General

Appendix

Follow-up to the Seventh Report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Implementation of the Agency's Plan for Ongoing Monitoring and Verification of Iraq's Compliance with Paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 687 (1991)

Section III of the IAEA's seventh semi-annual report (document S/1995/287 dated 11 April 1995) on the implementation of the IAEA's plan for ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with the relevant obligations specified in UNSC resolutions 687 (1991) and 715 (1991), addressed the implications of two, single page, documents which were represented as official Iraqi correspondence, generated in April/May 1994, suggesting the reconstitution of a nuclear weapons programme.

As first indicated in an article published in the London Sunday Times on 2 April 1995, the documents had been received by the newspaper in late February from an anonymous sender. Copies of the documents were obtained by the IAEA on 4 April 1995.

As indicated in S/1995/287, the IAEA had initiated an investigation with the aim of determining the authenticity and clarifying the substance of these documents.

On 5 May 1995, as this investigation was nearing completion, an additional set of three documents was received by the IAEA. This second set had been received by a journalist in another Member State around the same time as the first set of documents had been received in the United Kingdom. The second set was clearly related to the same subject and it was quickly determined that both sets originated from the same source.

The task of the IAEA remained unchanged, though somewhat expanded, namely to determine the authenticity of the documents and of the information contained therein - the additional documents providing a broader base on which to make that determination.

The IAEA has now completed its investigation which has entailed a detailed analysis of the form and content of the documents - including their comparison with the extensive database of documents seized in Iraq during the sixth IAEA inspection; an in-depth analysis of current and past correspondence and records provided by Iraq; interviews with Iraqi personnel allegedly involved, or known to have relevant technical competence; interviews with private Iraqi civilians not employed by the Government; interviews with journalists associated with the documents; and the carrying out of on-site inspection activities, including environmental monitoring, using the most sensitive analytical techniques.

Based on the results of these activities and the IAEA's extensive knowledge of Iraq's past programme and present situation, a large number of errors and inconsistencies have been identified in the documents, typified by the following:

- Linguistic correctness and conformity with Iraqi practice:

  These documents contain technical wording which differs from that found in the IAEA's extensive database of seized Iraqi documents and terms which are not in conformance with standard Iraqi usage.

- Conformity of layout and construction of documents with established Iraqi practices:

  The layout of the documents is not consistent with contemporary Iraqi usage. In addition, the documents reveal errors in construction, suggesting poor adaptation of authentic Iraqi documents.

- Scientific validity:

  Some technical elements of the programme, inferred from the documents, have been assessed as unlikely by experts from Nuclear Weapon States. Some of those elements are also inconsistent with available information on the status of Iraq's clandestine programme during the last years of the programme.

- Accuracy:

  Significant inaccuracies in qualifications, titles and names of individuals, as well as in technical and administrative organizational structures, have been clea ly established.

The investigation undertaken by the IAEA and the basis for its conclusions have been comprehensively documented. In view, however, of the sensitive nature of the subject and of the process, it is considered prudent to keep this documentation confidential.

As a result of this investigation, the IAEA has reached the conclusion that, on the basis of all evidence available, these documents are not authentic. Furthermore, no credible evidence was found to suggest that the activities reported in these documents were or are being carried out in Iraq.

It should be noted that the IAEA will continue, under its ongoing monitoring and verification plan, to actively pursue any evidence that might point to the conduct of activities proscribed under the relevant Security Council resolutions.